Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 5 are canceled.

6.(Currently amended)   A digital communications system comprising a transport fabric, access devices having ports for permitting access to said transport fabric, and means for transmitting data including errors from a port to be monitored over said ~~network~~ transport fabric to a remote monitoring site to replicate the data from said monitored port at said remote monitoring site, ~~whereby~~ and wherein said remote monitoring site is configured to perform tests ~~can be conducted~~ on said replicated data at said remote site so that said monitored port can be monitored remotely as if the monitoring were performed on site at said monitored port~~on site~~.

7.(Currently amended)   A digital communications system as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 6, further comprising a centralized route server for distributing topology information to said access devices.

8.(Original)   A digital communications system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising means for tagging monitored data packets to prevent them from being treated as normally received packets by the receiving interface means.

9.(Currently amended)   A digital communications system comprising a connection-oriented transport ~~fabric~~ network comprising at least one packet switch having ports providing access thereto, a centralized OAM (Operations and Maintenance) resource for providing OAM support to all said ports, and means for extracting ingress OAM packets

from a packet stream at said ports and redirecting said ingress OAM packets through the

transport ~~fabric~~ network to said centralized OAM resource for processing using a

preconfigured internal switch address, said centralized OAM resource processing said

ingress OAM packets and generating egress OAM packets, whereby all processing of said

OAM packets takes place at said centralized OAM resource.

10.(Currently amended)   A digital communications system as claimed in claim 9,

wherein said connection-oriented transport ~~fabric~~ network is an ATM network and said

packets are ATM cells.

11.(Currently amended)   In a digital communications system, an interface between a

connectionless and connection-oriented network, comprising ~~means~~ a reassembler for

~~snooping the incoming first packet~~ reassembling packets received from the connection-

oriented network; an extractor for extracting a packet header from the reassembled

packets, and a lookup engine for deriving the destination address ~~therefrom~~ from the

extracted packet header, and ~~means~~ a framer for appending the thus-derived address to

outgoing frames on the connectionless network.

12.(Original)   A digital communications system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said

destination address is the MAC address.

13.(Currently amended)   An interface device for establishing communication

between a connection-oriented transport fabric and a connectionless fabric in a digital

communications system having a centralized route server that stores routing information

for access devices connected to the transport fabric and periodically distributing said

routing information thereto, said interface device comprising first port means for

connection to said connection-oriented fabric, second port means for connection to the

connectionless fabric, translation means for translating data between formats adapted for

said connection-oriented and connectionless networks, a memory for receiving and

storing information from said centralized route server pertaining to the location of devices

attached to the system, and a transfer engine for forwarding data received ~~data~~ at a said

interface device toward its destination using said stored information.

Claims 14 and 15 are canceled

16.(Currently amended)   A method of controlling a digital communications system

with a connection-oriented transport ~~fabric~~ network comprising the steps of extracting

OAM (Operation and Maintenance) packets from a packet stream at ingress ports in a

packet processing engine, ~~and~~ redirecting said OAM packets through the transport ~~fabric~~

network to a centralized OAM processing resource ~~for processing~~ using a preconfigured

internal switch address; processing said redirected packets at said centralized OAM

resource, and generating egress OAM packets at said centralized OAM resource, whereby

all processing of said OAM packets takes place at said centralized OAM resource.

17.(Original)   A method of processing packets entry into a connection-oreintd transport

fabric, comprising the steps of:

        (a) periodically distributing routing information for devices connection to the

transport fabric to access devices connected thereto from a centralized route server over

said transport fabric;

        (b) receiving an incoming packet at said access device;

        (c) determining the destination address of said packet at said access device;

        (d) looking up said destination address in said access device to identify the route

of the destination address; and

(i) if said destination address is stored in said access device, forwarding said incoming packet to the destination in accordance with information stored in said access device; or

(ii) if said destination address is not stored in said access device, forwarding said incoming packet to said centralized route server for further processing.